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origin, Robert of Selby, * who had come to Southern Italy about the time when Roger became King. He was now promoted to the office of Chancellor, and entrusted with the military command of Salerno, Roger's mainland capital was strongly garrisoned against the coming of the Germans, and the danger was soon realised; from the middle of July to the first week of August, 1137, Robert endured a siege from the Pisans, the late prince of Capua, and the whole German army. After the town yielded to the Emperor, the stubborn commander retired to the citadel, and held out until the German wave had ebbed away and the tide turned in the King's favour again, Robert retained until his death his high office under the King. In the autumn of 1143, after a vain attempt to come to terms with the new Pope, Celestine II., Roger and Robert surrounded Benevento with their troops in order to frighten him into negotiations. The miserably harassed Beneventans complained that the King was violating his own charter of privileges of a former date; the Chancellor being sent into the city by the King demanded to see the document and when it

* The usual Latinised form *S&Mia* makes Selby more probable than Salisbury, on which latter Stubbs (*Constit.* *Eisi.* *i.* p, 428) grounds a guess that Robert may have been a pupil of Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, and under him mastered the workings of the English Exchequer. He seems to have been a cleric. For Robert see also Pauli (*Gottingische gelehrte Anzeigen*, 1878, p, 525).